

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRAZZA 01241 291246Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 /076 W

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R 291200Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1067

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YSOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRAZZAVILLE 1241

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CF

SUBJ: ALLEGED COUP ATTEMPT

1. AT AUG 22 MASS FOR JACQUES OPANGAULT (BRAZZAVILLE 1201 NOTAL), EULOGIZERS CHARACTERIZED HIM AS LEADER WHO SOUGHT UNITY AMONG PEOPLES OF ALL REGIONS IN CONGO. DESPITE HIS EFFORTS, AND THOSE OF NGOUABI, DIUNITY REMAINS THE PERVASIVE THEME IN CONGOLESE REGIONAL POLITICS, AND IS WHAT THE MOST RECENT ALLEGED COUP ATTEMPT AND ITS AFTERMATH ARE ALL ABOUT (BRAZZAVILLE 1161 AND 1184). WHATEVER SUBSTANCE THERE MAY HAVE BEEN TO CLAIMS OF COUP PLOTTING, YHOMBY NOW IS USING IT AS AN EXCUSE TO ROUND UP TRIBAL ADVERSARIES, RALLY NORTHERN OPINION AROUND HIM, DIVERT THE POPULATION FROM ECONOMIC AND IDEOLOGICAL FAILURES, AND TO INTIMIDATE WOULD-BE OPPOSITION IN GENERAL.

2. MILITARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVE FANNED OUT INTO CONGO'S NINE REGIONS, EMPHASIZING NEED FOR "PURIFICATION" AND "PERMANENT VIGILANCE".

3. CONGOLESE PRIMEMIN SYLVAIN-GOMA, MEETING WITH PARTY FAITHFUL IN
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PAGE 02 BRAZZA 01241 291246Z

OWANDO AUG 23, GAVE THEM FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING ALLEGED COUP ATTEMPT. ACCORDING TO SYLVAIN-GOMA, PLOT WAS HATCHED IN PARIS, PURSUANT TO AN AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN SUPPORTERS OF AIME MATSIKA AND THOSE OF MOUDILENO-MASSONGO, CONSTITUTING A CONGOLESE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC), THE OBJECTIVE OF WHICH WAS TO OVERTHROW CONGOLESE "REVOLUTIONARY INSTITUTIONS." PARTY CONTACTED LOCAL SYMPATHIZERS INCLUDING MOUZABAKANI, MIAKASSISSA, KOLELA,

FINA, AND WAMBA WHOSE OBJECTIVE WAS TO FACILITATE ASSAULT ON URBAN CENTERS BY MERCENARIES FINANCED AND ARMED BY "EUROPEAN CAPITALIST CIRCLES," IN COLLUSION WITH ELEMENTS IN NEIGHBORING AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

4. GABON AMB MBAYE TELLS US THAT FIRST VICE-PRES SASSOU-NGUESSO IS URGING CLEMENCY FOR CAPTURED "PLOTTERS." MBAYE (PRTOECT) CLAIMS THAT MOUZABAKANI IS OWED A VAST AMOUNT OF MONEY BY YHOMBY, AS IS FINA; HENCE, THEIR ARREST BY YHOMBY, WHO IS UNABLE TO REPAY THEM, AND WHO OWES A TOTAL OF 75 MILLION CFA TO HIS CREDITORS (USD 365,854). THIS, SAYS MBAYE, IS ONE REASON YHOMBY WISHES JUDGEMENTS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. (CONVERSELY, WE WOULD ADD, FUELING OF SUCH STORIES MAY BE ONE REASON SASSOU WANTS "PLOTTERS" KEPT ALIVE).

5. ALSO, ACCORDING TO MBAYE, FORMER PRIMEMIN LISSOUBA WAS TRANSFERRED FROM PRISON IN OUESSO TO BRAZZAVILLE, ON OUCABOUT AUG 17. KATZEN

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